

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-15 are pending in the application. Claim 15 has been amended. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action has objected to claim 15 because a comma is missing at the end of line 8. Claim 8 has been amended by adding a comma at the end of line 8. Accordingly, it is submitted that the amendment obviates the objection to claim 8 and, therefore, that the objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 2-5 and 7-15 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,881,115 to Lipner et al., hereafter Lipner, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,631,825 to van Weele et al., hereafter van Weele.

The Office Action rejects claims 2-5 and 7-15 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Lipner in view of van Weele or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Lipner in view of van Weele in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,803,039 to Impink, Jr. et al., hereafter Impink.

These rejections are discussed completely in an Appeal Brief filed concurrently herewith.

For the reasons set forth above and in the accompanying Appeal Brief, it is submitted that these rejections of claims 2-5 and 7-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are erroneous and should be withdrawn.

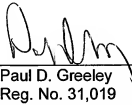
It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the objection to claim 15 be withdrawn, that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claims 2-5 and 7-15 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If this amendment is deemed to not place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: _____

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